Editorial

In our third volume, we publish two articles that present historical analyses. Marni R. Harrington and Ania Dymarz examine the trend of hiring consultants in academic libraries, combining their historical presentation of literature about consultants in librarianship with a linguistic analysis of that literature. While they present a historical analysis, they do so in order to better understand the present-day role of consultants in academic libraries. Their critical perspective brings a helpful focus to the discussion about consultants and illuminates several ways in which the role of consultants can be further scrutinized.

Lorne D. Bruce gives a historical survey of academic libraries in postwar Canada, identifying several themes that were prominent during that period. Today’s readers are unlikely to have first-hand memories of academic libraries from 1945 to 1960, and so Bruce’s discussion of these historical developments is enlightening. It is particularly timely and interesting to read about library organization, administrative changes, and evolution of roles for librarians, since many Canadian academic libraries are currently undergoing “organizational renewal” or re-organizations.

As in the previous volume of the Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship, these articles show that we are open to all research methodologies and disciplinary perspectives. Literature in librarianship has been criticized for being overly preoccupied with quantitative, empirical research (Drabinski and Walters 2016), and we are pleased that CJAL’s volumes clearly show our commitment to approaches that may not have been as readily accepted by other journals. At the same time, we want to remind prospective authors that our commitment to all methodologies means that we are also open to quantitative research, and we would particularly welcome submissions of quantitative research addressed from critical perspectives.

We also want to remind readers that we are also accepting submissions for two special issues, one on diversity and academic librarianship and one on research, scholarship, and Canadian academic librarians. Details are in the News section of the journal site. We are pleased to work with our guest editor colleagues on these special
issues, and we look forward to receiving your submissions on these topics, or indeed any topic related to academic librarianship.

References